

Message Text

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70/64

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCEM-02 COME-00 EB-11

TRSE-00 FPC-01 PM-07 DRC-01 /122 W

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R 201815Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9193

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, TECH, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN POSITION ON EUROPEAN URANIUM ENRICHMENT

REF: STATE 228155, PARIS 29817

1. FONMIN OFFICIAL IN CHARGE NUCLEAR AFFAIRS (HERPELS) INFORMED US THAT BELGIAN EURODIF REPS WILL SUPPORT GOING AHEAD WITH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT AT NOV. 27 MEETING. NOTING THAT DEVELOPMENT OF INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR POWER RESOURCES HAS BEEN GIVEN HIGH-LEVEL IMPETUS BY OIL CRISIS, SHE POINTED OUT THAT GOB HAS NO REAL CHOICE BETWEEN EURODIF AND URENCO PROJECTS SINCE DIFFUSION IS PROVEN TECHNOLOGY AND, IN ANY CASE, GOB HAS VERY INADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE OF CENTRIFUGE TECHNOLOGY AS DEVELOPED BY URENCO. SHE ADMITTED THAT GOB IS SOMEWHAT UNEASY ABOUT MAKING LARGE INVESTMENT REQUIRED (ABOUT BF ONE BILLION) IN EURODIF PLANT

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WITHOUT BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF ALTERNATIVES, BUT SAID THAT GOB SEES

NO REASON WHY BOTH PROJECTS SHOULD NOT GO FORWARD. SHE DESCRIBED RECENT URENCO INVITATION TO FRENCH TO JOIN CENTRIFUGE STUDY AS EFFORT TO TORPEDO OR AT LEAST SLOW DOWN EURODIF PROJECT.

2. HERPELS WAS CAREFUL TO STRESS THAT EUROPEANS DO NOT INTEND TO PREEMPT EUROPEAN MARKET FOR ENRICHED URANIUM AND THAT BELGIUM HAS INTEREST IN KEEPING ALL SUPPLY SOURCES AVAILABLE. SHE MENTIONED THAT BELGIAN POWER COMPANIES PLAN, AS DO FRENCH, TO MAKE ALL NEW MAJOR POWER PLANTS NUCLEAR.

3. WE TOOK OCCASION TO REAFFIRM US INTEREST IN COOPERATION WITH EUROPEANS IN URANIUM ENRICHMENT, MENTIONING AEC CABLE TO WYART SUGGESTING POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF DECEMBER 31 DEADLINE FOR DISCUSSIONS ON SUCH COOPERATION. BOOCHEVER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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